



EXHIBIT 6
DATE 2/4/2011
HB 368

MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

2500 Broadway - PO Box 203201 - Helena, Montana 59620-3201
(406) 444-6570 - FAX (406) 444-1469

February 3, 2011

House Judiciary Committee
Montana Legislature

Re: House Bill 368: Opposition

Dear Chairman Peterson and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

This letter is written to advise you of the opposition of the Montana University System to House Bill 368, which prohibits employers from banning guns on their property.

Our campuses, major employers in their communities, serve a concentrated number of one of Montana's most vulnerable populations: our youth between the ages of 17 and 24. In addition, through numerous academic, sports and cultural programs, our campuses serve many students of a much younger age. Our campuses are frequented by families and young children on many occasions. There are very special safety factors to be considered in providing a safe environment for these varied campus activities. In light of these factors, the Board of Regents has restricted guns on our campuses, including in vehicles on campus, but our campuses all have security plans in place and employ appropriate security measures for the protection of the campus community, including, in some cases, academy-trained on-site law enforcement officers.

A further consideration for us is that House Bill 368 implies that student-employees, of which there are many on our campuses, are entitled to bring guns to campus in their cars, which is a violation of Board of Regents' policy.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Sheila M. Stearns
Commissioner of Higher Education